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Goschen's diaries and letters to his wife. But the central value of the biography—the value that distinguishes it from all political biography since Parker's *Life of Peel* was published in 1899—is the wealth of new material it contains concerning political parties between Russell's succeeding Palmerston as leader of the Whigs in 1866, with Russell's efforts at that time to give a Liberal tinge to his cabinet, and the split in the Unionist party in 1903, due to Mr. Chamberlain's retirement from the Balfour administration to push his propaganda for a protective tariff.

For the history of changes, developments, and crises in the two great parties, Mr. Elliot's biography of Goschen is the most valuable contribution to political history since Croker's *Diaries* were published in 1885. Cobden once told Goschen—in a letter, February 6, 1864—that he was a fresh ship likely to be dangerous to both political parties. In his Parliamentary career Goschen was of the Whig, Liberal-Unionist, and Conservative parties, and there were times when he described himself as a Liberal. It is because Mr. Elliot has with painstaking care and with well-presented detail followed Goschen through these recurring crises that his biography is so valuable a contribution to the history of political parties. Detail is especially characteristic of Mr. Elliot in narrating the division in the Whig Liberal party over the Gladstone Home Rule bill of 1885, with the result that the biography of Goschen is the fullest history yet between covers of the greatest crisis in the annals of the Liberal party.

A. Thiers, Chef du Pouvoir Exécutif et Président de la République Française, 17 Février 1871–24 Mai 1873. Par PIERRE F. SIMON. (Paris: Édouard Cornély et Cie. 1911. Pp. xvi, 358.)

M. SIMON's volume was awarded the Rossi prize for 1909 by the law faculty of the University of Paris. It is a study of the Thiers régime rather than of Thiers, the subject of the competition having been the executive in France from the assembling of the National Assembly in February, 1871, to the crisis of May 24, 1873.

The Thiers régime, M. Simon declares, was a unique system of government. The Republic existed, but only as a provisional arrangement. The National Assembly possessed sovereign power and a majority of its members was determined that the Republic should not become permanently established. Circumstances dictated the choice of Thiers as head of the government. Never in real accord with the majority of the assembly, he ruled owing to its acquiescence rather than with its support. In the combined capacities of responsible *chef du gouvernement*, president of the council of ministers, and deputy, he guided and controlled the assembly. Occasionally he yielded a point of minor importance, but upon all of the great questions, the tariff, the army, local government, the majority in the assembly gave way to him until he attempted to force the definitive establishment of the Republic. This reversal of the usual parliamentary process M. Simon attributes to the fact that

until final arrangements had been made for getting rid of the Germans Thiers was "the necessary man" and could dictate his own terms to the assembly.

In the organization and handling of the materials the monograph exhibits the admirable qualities almost invariably found in historical studies coming from French university circles. Within the lines the author has laid out for himself, the work has been well done. In matters of detail there is little occasion for anything but praise. Only in the general scope of the study and in the restrictions as to the materials to be employed is there any considerable ground for criticism.

In scope the study is confined too narrowly to the relations between Thiers and the assembly. These are fully treated. But the other activities of Thiers as chief executive are either passed over entirely or dealt with only in an incidental and imperfect way. In fact, the monograph is more a study of the history of the National Assembly in its relations with Thiers than a study of Thiers as chief executive. Even in that field the scope of the investigation might have been broadened advantageously. Outside conditions and events which exerted an influence upon the assembly are given too little attention. The proceedings of the assembly upon all important matters involving its relations with Thiers are set forth in considerable detail and with commendable accuracy, but no particular effort is made to explain what led the assembly to act as it did upon each measure beyond the furnishing of summaries of the debates, including liberal quotations from the principal speeches. There is no serious attempt to analyze the votes or to discover the reasons for the action of the various groups into which the assembly was divided.

The bibliography contains numerous titles but the plan of the study has called for only a limited use of the greater part of them. Collections of legislative and parliamentary documents have furnished most of the materials used to any considerable extent. Only a very restricted use has been made of newspapers and memoirs. The omission of the latter was perhaps justifiable, although it would seem probable that a cautious and critical use of them might have yielded some important results. The use of newspapers would have required an even greater caution, but the difficulty of their use did not warrant their neglect. For the period with which M. Simon's deals they are valuable material.

FRANK MALOY ANDERSON.

The Cambridge Modern History. Planned by the late Lord ACTON, LL.D., Regius Professor of Modern History. Edited by A. W. WARD, Litt.D., G. W. PROTHERO, Litt.D., and STANLEY LEATHES, M.A. Volume XII. *The Latest Age.* (London and New York: The Macmillan Company. 1910. Pp. xxxiv, 1033.)

THE twelfth volume of the *Cambridge Modern History* covers the period of the last forty years, although some of the chapters go further back than 1870. Mr. Leathes furnishes an excellent *coup d'œil*